



1. Submitted by: Missouri State University
2. Program Title: Religious Studies
3. Degree/Certificate: Bachelor of Science
4. Options: None None
5. Delivery Site(s): Springfield Campus
6. CIP Classification: 380201
7. Implementation Date: August, 2009
8. Cooperative Partners: None

AUTHORIZATION

Dr. Frank Einhellig, Provost

Name/title of Institutional Officer

Signature

Date

Dr. Julie Masterson, Associate Provost

Person to Contact for More Information

417-836-5335

Telephone Number

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS (Form SE)

Form SE	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Full Time</i>	11	17	21	18	18
<i>Part Time</i>	2	9	9	6	12
<i>Total</i>	13	26	30	24	30

1. Please provide a rationale regarding how student enrollment projections were calculated  
Numbers have been taken from actual fall student census data of B.S. students in Religious Studies from 2009-2013.
2. Provide a rationale for proposing this program, including evidence of market demand and societal need supported by research (i.e., please cite sources for evidence used).

**a. Market Demand:**

The B.S. option appeals to the diverse group of students who are interested in studying religion. For Religious Studies majors who are planning to go on to graduate study in the field, the broader background that a B.A. provides, particularly the language instruction, is essential. For Religious Studies majors who are planning to go on to seminary, language admission requirements are no longer the rule. More importantly, many of the students in our classes do not plan on academic careers in the field, but intend to go into law, counseling, journalism, or other areas where the B.A. is not essential. The Department of Religious Studies can better effect its mission of increasing the religious literacy of our students if we have the option of offering a major without the additional B.A. course requirements. This will also give us the chance to attract students to Religious Studies as second majors, whose first major is a B.S. In our survey of fifteen programs similar to ours, we found only four that offer a B.S. major. So this is not the norm for the discipline, but it is slowly becoming more common. We detect an additional demand for the B.S. among transfer students who enter Missouri State University having fulfilled most if not all of their general education requirements. These students typically lack the additional liberal arts requirements in the B.A. degree. As such, for students wishing to complete their undergraduate degree more quickly, the B.S. degree is often the more attractive option. It allows students to focus on their major and minor programs without adding several additional courses for the B.A. The additional flexibility offered by the B.S. degree allows students to combine the Religious Studies major with minors in almost any field, including general business, social work, psychology, and other fields that are linked with a wide variety of professional careers. In sum, the B.S. degree offers students more flexibility to combine a major in Religious Studies with other degrees at Missouri State University, and often enables them to make quicker progress toward graduation.

**b. Societal Demand (i.e., factors other than employment indicating need for degree)**

The Department of Religious Studies has been contributing to the Public Affairs mission of Missouri State University for decades by educating students about religion. Though this is accomplished to some extent in our general education classes and in the Religious Studies minor, the Religious Studies major is the choice of those students who seek a deeper understanding of religion and a higher degree of cultural competence. But prior to 2009 that major was only possible for those seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree. Though this is the most appropriate option for majors planning to do graduate work in Religious Studies, there is little reason why other students interested in different career paths must complete the B.A. requirements. Making the major available with the Bachelor of Science has enabled the Department of Religious Studies to better serve the public by allowing us to educate even more students who understand the crucial role that religion plays in the contemporary world.

## COLLABORATION (FORM CL):

Does delivery of the program involve a collaborative effort with any external institution or organization?  
: **NO**

If yes, please complete the rest of this section. If no, state not applicable and go to Program Structure (Form PS).

Sponsoring Institutions: Click here to enter text.

Degree Program for Collaboration Click here to enter text.

Length of agreement (open-ended or limited): Click here to enter text.

1. Which institution(s) will have degree-granting authority?  
Click here to enter text.
2. Which institution(s) will have the authority for faculty hiring, course assignment, evaluation, and reappointment decisions?  
Click here to enter text.
3. What agreements exist to ensure that faculty from all participating institutions will be involved in decisions about the curriculum, admissions standards, exit requirements?  
Click here to enter text.
4. Which institution(s) will be responsible for academic and student-support services (e.g., registration, advising, library, academic assistance, financial aid, etc.)?  
Click here to enter text.
5. What agreements exist to ensure that the academic calendars of the participating institutions have been aligned as needed?  
Click here to enter text.
6. In addition to the information provided by each participating Institution regarding Financial Projections (below), please address the following items:
  - a) How will tuition rates be determined if they differ among the institutions?  
Click here to enter text.
  - b) Has a formal agreement been developed regarding cost-sharing policies? If yes, please include it as part of the proposal. If no, please summarize the current understanding between all parties and the plans for developing a formal agreement.  
Click here to enter text.
  - c) What arrangements, if any, have been made for exchange of money between participating institutions?  
Click here to enter text.
7. What commitments have been made by all participants to evaluate the program systematically?  
Click here to enter text.
8. If one institution wishes to discontinue the program, what agreements exist for terminating the offering?  
Click here to enter text.

# **PROGRAM STRUCTURE (FORM PS):**

1. Total credits required for graduation: 125
2. Residency requirements, if any: Minimum of 30 hours administered by the Springfield campus, 12 hours of upper division credit in the major in courses administered by the Springfield campus.
3. General education: Total credits: 45-49 credit hours

Courses (specific courses OR distribution area and credits):

Distribution Area	Credits	Course Title
Foundations	2	First-Year Seminar
	3	Written Communication & Info Literacy
	3	Oral Communication
	3-5	Quantitative Literacy
	3	Written Comm. & Integrative & Applied Learning
Natural World	3-4	Life Sciences
	3-5	Physical Sciences
Human Cultures	6	Social and Behavioral Sciences
	3	Humanities
	3	The Arts
Public Affairs	6	US & MO Constitutions/American History and Institutions
	3	Cultural Competence
	3	Public Issues

4. Major requirements: Total credits: 39 hours

Course Number	Credits	Course Title
REL 100	3	Introduction to Religion
REL 101	3	Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
REL 102	3	New Testament
REL 131	3	Religion in America
REL 210	3	Paths of World Religions
REL 580	3	Theories of Religion
	21	Religious Studies electives

5. Free elective credits:  
37-41 (inclusive of a minor)
6. (Sum of 3, 4, and 5 should equal 1.)  
Minimum of 125; may go up to 129)
7. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience:  
None
8. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:  
None

## PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS (FORM PG):

Institution Name: Missouri State University

Program Name: B.S. in Religious Studies

Date: August, 2016

(Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.)

### 1. Student Preparation

- a) Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.  
No special preparation is required for the B.S. major
- b) Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.  
Not applicable

### 2. Faculty Characteristics

- a) Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.  
None
- b) Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.  
Approximately 85% of B.S. student credit hours are completed with full time faculty on average. It would be unusual for a student to take more than two courses with per-course/adjunct faculty in the department. Religious Studies employs a limited number of per course faculty to help teach lower division courses. It should be noted, however, that full time faculty also teach these same lower division courses, and thus it is possible that some students will earn 100% of their credit hours in courses taught by full time faculty.
- c) Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.  
No special expectations

### 3. Enrollment Projections

- a) Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.  
Based upon actual census data, there had been totals of 85 full-time majors and 38 part-time majors at the end of Year 5.
- b) Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.  
At the end of Year 5, 69% of the majors were full-time and 31% were part-time.

### 4. Student and Program Outcomes

- a) Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.  
There were 16 graduates in Year 3 (2012) and 7 graduates in Year 5 (2014). It should be noted that in 2015, there were 10 graduates.
- c) Special skills specific to the program.

Nothing specific to the B.S. per se. Program is comparable to the B.A. degree in terms of skills utilized and developed.

- d) Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.  
Not applicable.
- e) Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.  
Not applicable. Normed tests for Religious Studies do not exist.
- f) Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.  
Based on efforts to track our graduates in recent years, we can estimate a 40% placement rate in related fields, 50% placement in other fields, and 10% unemployed.
- g) Transfer rates, continuous study.  
Unknown

#### 5. Program Accreditation

- a) Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide reasons.  
There are no plans to seek specialized accreditation since none exist for Religious Studies.

#### 6. Alumni and Employer Survey

- a) Expected satisfaction rates for alumni, including timing and method of surveys.  
Department assessment data collected since 2014 includes an exit interview, a written survey, and an online survey administered near the end of the majors' final semester at Missouri State University. Between 2014 and 2016 when the online survey has been administered, 85% of graduating majors strongly agreed with the statement "I am satisfied with my degree as a Religious Studies major." The remaining 15% agreed with the same statement. No students disagreed or expressed dissatisfaction in the same period. Overwhelming levels of student satisfaction are also regularly expressed during exit interviews with majors and in written surveys.
- b) Expected satisfaction rates for employers, including timing and method of surveys.  
Given the variety of employment settings for our graduates, we have not collected data from employers.

#### 7. Institutional Characteristics

- a) Characteristics demonstrating why your institution is particularly well-equipped to support the program.  
The department of Religious Studies is the oldest and largest religious studies program in a state university in Missouri. There are fourteen full time faculty who teach courses to undergraduates and MA students on a wide range of subjects related to religion. The B.S. major complements the B.A. major and has enrolled roughly 55% of all REL majors since 2012. Courses offered by the department may be used to satisfy requirements in both major programs. The B.S. program allows students to explore all types of religion and strengthen their critical thinking and skills in research and writing. Students may earn the B.S. in Religious

Studies while completing one of the large number of minors or double majors available to students at Missouri State University. Students in the Department of Religious Studies are prepared to obtain success in a range of career paths, including graduate school or seminary, as well as other professional and people-centered careers such as counseling, nonprofit work, publishing, and law.

#### **8. Other Relevant Information**

An error resulted in our B.S. in Religious Studies not being listed as approved on the MDHE website even though it has been offered since 2009. As a result, the current proposal includes information that we have gathered since the B.S. program has been in existence. One fortunate result of this error is that we can definitively state that there is significant student interest in the B.S. in Religious Studies, and there have been no additional costs involved in establishing or maintaining this new program.